

**PUBLIC HEARING of the Town Council held Thursday, May 21, 2009 at 7:00 P.M. in Town Council Chambers, 105 Harrisville Main St., Harrisville, for and within the Town of Burrillville.**

**PRESENT: Council President Nancy F. Binns, Councilors Wallace F. Lees, Robert A. Bishop, Margaret L. Dudley, Kevin D. Heitke, John M. Karmozyn Jr. and Norman C. Mainville**

**MEMBERS ABSENT: None**

**OTHERS PRESENT: Budget Board members Mark Brizard, Arthur R. Hurley, and David Ketcham,**

**Relative to discussing the Municipal Budget**

**NOTE: The public hearing was duly advertised in the Woonsocket Call on May 7, 13 and 20, 2009.**

## **1. Comments from the Budget Board**

**Arthur R. Hurley, Chair, Burrillville Budget Board, commented on the diligent efforts of the Budget Board, due to anticipated decreases in State revenues. Mr. Hurley said that Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, had lessened the proposed decrease because he had more current information. Mr. Hurley suggested that the Manager had recommended a viable approach to the 2010 budget. Mr. Hurley**

**voiced concern at the State using stimulus money in the State operating budget, which he suggested would lead to further problems in coming years.**

## **2. Comments from Michael C. Wood, Town Manager**

**Michael C. Wood, Town Manager, discussed the budget process, acknowledged the Budget Board's due diligence, and pointed out that budget figures could continue to change throughout the remainder of the current fiscal year.**

**Mr. Wood noted that:**

- The proposed budget is within the 4.75% levy cap**
- The proposed FY2010 municipal budget reflects a decrease from the FY2009 budget.**
- The school budget includes a \$337,000 increase over FY2009**
- Debt service has decreased due to retiring debt**
- The capital improvement program budget is included in the budget proposal but is not currently paid from real estate taxes; the program is funded by Ocean State Power money**

**Mr. Wood said that the single largest impact on the budget is the loss of \$1,691,000 in revenue, resulting in the proposal to increase real estate tax. Mr. Wood explained the reductions in State aid.**

**Mr. Wood summarized the line item changes in the municipal budget.**

**Note: The Manager's FY2010 budget message is on file with the record of the hearing.**

### **3. Public Comment:**

**Note: Persons who wish to address the Council shall state their name and address.**

**Emile Leduc, representing the American Legion Post 88 and the Allied Veteran's Council, reviewed past funding and requested that \$1,500 funding be maintained. Mr. Leduc suggested that funds that are not used would be returned to the Town.**

**Susan Kent of Benedict Road encouraged the Town Council to work hard to avoid any property tax increase in FY2010. Ms. Kent suggested that reductions be made to non-essential services so that the FY2010 budget not exceed existing revenues.**

**Donna Bourgette of East Wallum Lake Road discussed the proposal to reduce the animal control budget by 25 percent. Ms. Bourgette said that she understood the concept of reductions but recommended maintaining the animal control budget in order to preserve service levels.**

**Steven Taschereau discussed the benefits offered by the Burrillville Figure Skating Association, reviewed past funding, and asked that those funds be maintained in the FY2010 budget. There was**

**discussion of the level-funding included in the proposed budget.**

**Carlo Aquisto of Jackson Schoolhouse Road suggested that the Town seek to develop land and attract commercial/industrial taxpayers. Development of Commerce Park, the impact of the tax cap, and the efforts of the Burrillville Redevelopment Agency were discussed.**

**Mark Brizard of Victory Highway suggested a focus on increasing revenues, including consideration of a fuel surcharge for quasi-municipal agencies and fire districts sharing in the cost of dispatch. There was discussion of arrangements between the Town and the Fire Districts.**

**Lillian Jerome of Mowry Street discussed the cost of ice time incurred by the Burrillville Figure Skating Association.**

**4. VOTED to close the public hearing.**

**Motion by Councilor Norman C. Mainville. Seconded by Councilor Wallace F. Lees. The vote was unanimous. Voting in favor were Council President Nancy F. Binns and Councilors Wallace F. Lees, Robert A. Bishop, Margaret L. Dudley, Kevin D. Heike, John M. Karmozyn, Jr. and Norman C. Mainville.**

**5. Town Council deliberation**

**Councilor Norman C. Mainville suggested retaining the position of Deputy Animal Control Officer and supporting funding of special appropriations. Councilor Mainville acknowledged the efforts of our local legislators to maintain State aid.**

**Councilor Margaret L. Dudley recommended reducing special appropriations and discontinuing the financial support to the Pascoag Public Library.**

**Council President Nancy F. Binns supported funding for the Pascoag Public Library. Council President Binns recommended that the Town Council consider a temporary, voluntary 20 percent reduction in stipends.**

**Councilor Margaret L. Dudley suggested consideration of 20 percent co-pay for health insurance for elected officials.**

**Councilor Kevin D. Heitke encouraged more public input on ways to address budget issues. Councilor Wallace F. Lees concurred and thanked those present for their participation. Susan Kent of Benedict Road recommended consolidation of the fire departments. There was discussion of the organization of fire districts.**

**6. VOTED to adjourn at 8:08 P.M.**

**Motion by Councilor Norman C. Mainville. Seconded by Councilor Wallace F. Lees. The vote was unanimous. Voting in favor were Council President Nancy F. Binns and Councilors Wallace F. Lees, Robert A. Bishop, Margaret L. Dudley, Kevin D. Heike, John M. Karmozyn, Jr. and Norman C. Mainville.**

**Louise R. Phaneuf, Town Clerk**